

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the present title with the following amended title:**

A BRANCHING UNIT ADAPTED TO ~~BE INTEGRATED INTO~~ RECONFIGURE  
CONNECTION OF TERRESTRIAL TERMINALS IN A SUBMARINE  
TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM, A SUBMARINE TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM  
INTEGRATING THE BRANCHING UNIT, AND A METHOD OF RECONFIGURING A  
SUBMARINE TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM

**Page 9, please replace the fourth paragraph with the following amended paragraph:**

The branching unit 10 further comprises a first electronic control card ~~[[10]]~~ 20 supplied with power by the trunk current  $i_1$  and which includes:

- first means 21 for receiving and processing optical reconfiguration signals  $S_{rB}$ ,
- preferably, first memory means 22 for storing optical configuration signals,
- first voltage measuring means 23 for measuring a voltage  $U_1$  indicating the potential at any point of the trunk segment  $P_{12}$ , for example at the trunk current input,
- preferably, first identification means 24a for identifying the existence and the sign of the trunk current and first identification means 24b for identifying the existence and the sign of the branch current,
- first reconfiguration validation means 25 coupled to the means 21 to 24 and adapted to authorize or prohibit reconfiguration, and
- first reconfiguration means 26 coupled to the reconfiguration validation means 25 and adapted to command the switching of the contacts 7, 7', 7" after validation.